

**FIELD FEES COMMITTEE
NEW FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
NEW FAIRFIELD, CT**

MINUTES – July 29, 2024 Meeting

Members Present (6 voting members): Ed Sbordone (chair), Ken Crow, Dominic Cipollone, Ken Bennett, Jim Keller, Sean Loughran

Member Absent:

Also Present: Carrie DePuy, Phil Ross, Mark Ottusch, Mike Evans, various members of the BOS & BOF including Melissa Lindsey, Thora Perkins and Cheryl Reedy

Minutes submitted by: Ken Crow

Meeting Location: Meeting Access: Field Fees Committee (7/29/24 at 4 p.m.)

Web: <https://zoom.us/j/94250092496> **Dial In: (929) 205-6099 Meeting ID: 942 5009 2496**

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. June 10, 2024

Motion: To approve the minutes of June 10, 2024, as presented

Made by: Ed Sbordone

Seconded by: Dominic Cipollone

Recording of vote: All in favor

III. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Presentation and Discussion regarding Stadium Lighting and Turf/Track

Replacement – Committee members reviewed Carrie DePuy’s presentation and Phil Ross’ explanation about the compromised stadium lighting. The stadium’s unsafe lighting has been removed and the stadium has been closed. If the lighting is not replaced soon, night games will have to be rescheduled, transportation costs will increase, and youth programs and revenue will be impacted. Quotes from Musco and Cooper were reviewed. Rebates from Eversource are being explored. The Musco quote of \$414,000 and the SprinTurf quote of \$909,800 bring the total for the entire project to \$1,323,800. Funding sources would be \$640,000 from the Field Fees fund and the request for an additional appropriation from the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance of \$683,800 to cover the cost of the entire project.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

A. Discuss and Vote on Revisions to the New Fairfield Board of Education and Parks & Recreation Field Policy Agreement -

B. Discuss and Vote on Stadium Lighting

C. Discuss and Vote on Turf/Track Replacement

The committee reviewed the Field Fees Policy Agreement and discussion centered around whether replacement of the stadium lighting is addressed in the agreement. To minimize the impact on the fall sports schedule, there was consensus among committee members concerning the urgency to replace the stadium lighting and to use Field Fees funds.

Motion: To recommend the selection of the Musco quote for the replacement of stadium lighting and the SprinTurf quote for the replacement of the track and turf, and forward the recommendation to the Board of Education

Made by: Ken Crow

Seconded by: Dom Cipollone

Recording of vote: All in favor

Motion: To recommend the use of Field Fees funds to fund the stadium lighting project

Made by: Ken Crow

Seconded by: Dom Cipollone

Recording of vote: All in favor

A BOE special meeting to consider the stadium lighting, turf and track replacement plan is scheduled for Wednesday, July 31, 2024, at 7 p.m. via zoom. A request for an additional appropriation for turf/track replacement will be made to the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance.

V. OTHER – Public Comment

Members of the public expressed agreement with the proposed lighting, turf and track replacement plan, and recommended the need for a plan for fields' future needs and for a commitment from the BOF for the additional appropriation. BOS and BOF special meetings will not be necessary. Carrie DePuy received confirmation from SprinTurf that their turf/track quote will be held until June 2025.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Made by: Ed Sbordone

Recording of vote: All in favor

Seconded by: Dom Cipollone

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.